

# The Drug Factor

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## Office of Drug Control Policy

Prevention ~ Treatment ~ Enforcement

## National Drug Threat Assessment

**Marijuana is the most widely available and abused illicit drug in the region**

### Upcoming Events

Stephanie Covington—  
3/7/08—Galt House in  
Louisville, KY

Action with Heart—  
4/17/08—Barren River  
State Park

The 2008 National Drug Threat Assessment has been released by the National Drug Intelligence Center in the U.S. Department of Justice. Kentucky is part of the Great Lakes Region which also includes Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin and the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois. For this region, Chicago and Cleveland, the largest metropolitan areas, are the principal illicit drug distribution centers.

According to this report, the distribution and abuse of cocaine pose the greatest threats to most urban areas while methamphetamine and marijuana pose the

greatest threat to the rural areas. Cocaine, heroin, and meth are the greatest threats to public safety because those drugs are most often associated with violent and property crimes.

Methamphetamine production has declined significantly in the region in the past 2 years due to the restriction of retail sales of precursors. Kentucky's Senate Bill 63, passed in 2005, requires that pseudoephedrine be obtained by request of a pharmacist and proof of age and signature in a log book. This plus aggressive public awareness campaigns have helped reduce the production of methamphetamine.



**The abuse of pharmaceutical drugs is increasing among teenagers and young adults.**

### Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

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## Opiate Addiction Increases Among Youth

From 2002 to 2005, treatment admissions to publicly funded programs for opiates among individuals from 12 to 20 years old, increased 84%. Commonly used opiates included: prescription

narcotics such as hydrocodone, hydromorphone and oxycodone.

The availability of Mexican ice methamphetamine is increasing in many areas of the region.

Street gangs are the primary retail distributors of illicit drugs in the region. Their activity is spreading from the cities to the suburban areas causing more violence in those areas.